

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of any changes to the claims and the remarks herein. Please contact the undersigned to conduct a telephone interview in accordance with MPEP 713.01 to resolve any remaining requirements and/or issues prior to sending another Office Action. Relevant portions of MPEP 713.01 are included on the signature page of this amendment.

Applicants withdraw the Notice of Appeal dated January 20, 2005 and Request Continued Examination.

Since the present application was filed prior to November 29, 2000, no petition is necessary under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), MPEP Section 201.11 and 65 FR 57024 to change a claim of priority.

Claims 81 and 90 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Support for claims 81 and 90 is at page 11, lines 9-10 and in the amendment to the specification in Applicant's response dated March 8, 2004 at page 16, line 10-11.

Claims 50, 52, 78, 81, 83 and 90 have been objected to. The Examiner states it is "unclear what 'plurality of groups of said plurality of flexible electrical contact element's are." Fig. 18 shows a group of flexible electrical contact elements 264 or 262. There are a plurality of these groups. See Attachment A wherein the plurality of groups are marked as A. In regards to claim 52, the Examiner states "it is unclear what 'a plurality of second substrates "are". In Fig. 20 elements 236 are a plurality of second substrates mounted on to first substrate 280. Alternatively in Fig. 18 the plurality of the groups of flexible electrical conductors can be replaced by, for example the structures of Fig. 5 or Fig. 2 as shown in Attachment B to provide the plurality of groups of electrical conductors.

In regards to claim 78, the Examiner states "it is unclear what 'terminals on an other of the two opposite surfaces', 'contact' and 'means, within each of the first substrates, for connecting the terminals to the contacts' represent. Are they shown the drawings". For example (not limiting) Fig. 3 shows at least one first substrate 60 or 54 mounted to second substrate 68. The first substrate 60 has opposite faces 87 and 62. Flexible electrical conductor 42 extending from "one of the two surfaces" (surface 87) and terminals 64 on an other (62) of the two opposite surfaces 87 and 62. "Means, within each of the first substrates, for connecting the terminals to the contacts" are electrical conductors that extend from one side of the first substrate to the other side of the first substrate such as shown in Fig. 17 as 220 and 214.

In regards to claim 83 the Examiner states "it is unclear what 'a plurality of first substrate' represents." Elements, 262 or 264 of Fig. 18 are as shown in Fig. 2 substrate 60 or 54 with elongated electrical conductors 42 thereon. Thus substrates 60 or 54 providing elements 262 or 264 are a plurality of first substrates.

Claims 29-46, 48, 50-59, 76-80, 82 and 88-89 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Beaman et al. (US Patent No. 5,635,846). The claim of priority has been amended so that the present application has the benefit of US 5,635,846 under 35 USC 120 which is thus not a reference against the rejected claims.

Claims 29-32, 34-46, 48, 50-59, 78 and 82 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Khandros et al. (US Patent No. 5,806,181). Due to the amended claim of priority, the present application has an effective filing date prior to Khandros et al.

Claims 47-48, 79-80 and 88-89 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khandros et al. and Beaman et al. Due to the amended claim of priority, neither is a reference against these claims.

In view of the changes to the claims and the remarks herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the above-identified application. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application further, or if additional information would be required, the undersigned will cooperate fully to assist in the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fee necessary to enter this paper and any previous paper to deposit account 09-0468.

If the above-identified Examiner's Action is a final Action, and if the above-identified application will be abandoned without further action by applicants, applicants file a Notice of Appeal to the Board of Appeals and Interferences appealing the final rejection of the claims in the above-identified Examiner's Action. Please charge deposit account 09-0468 any fee necessary to enter such Notice of Appeal.

In the event that this amendment does not result in allowance of all such claims, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

MPEP 713.01 states in part as follows:

Where the response to a first complete action includes a request for an interview or a telephone consultation to be initiated by the examiner, ... the examiner, as soon as he or she has considered the effect of the response, should grant such request if it appears that the interview or consultation would result in expediting the case to a final action.

Respectfully submitted,



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